

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 GAC-01 USIA-12 TRSE-00

MBFR-03 SAJ-01 SCA-01 SS-15 NSC-10 PPT-02 VO-03 M-03

A-01 H-02 CU-04 RSR-01 /130 W
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P R 311510 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0154

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0741

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, CPAS, LY

SUBJECT: PASSPORTS IN ARABIC QUESTION

REF: USNATO 2677

1. COLONEL QADHAFI HAD RECENT INTERVIEW WITH CAIRO DAILY (AL-HAM) PUBLISHED ON 27 MAY 1973. IN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION, ONE SECTION THAT INTERVIEW READS: " IF STATEMENTS ENTERED IN A PASSPORT ARE WRITTEN IN ONE LANGUAGE, THAT IS TO SAY THE LANGUAGE OF THE ISSUING COUNTRY, THEN SUCH A SITUATION IS ALL RIGHT BECAUSE WE RESPECT SUCH A SITUATION AND WE HAVE NO RIGHT TO ASK THE COUNTRY OF

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SUCH A PASSPORT TO ADD OUR LANGUAGE TO ITS PASSPORT. BUT IF SUCH A PASSPORT INCLUDES OTHER LANGUAGES THEN I WOULD SAY THE ARAB NATION WHICH SPEAKS THE ARABIC LANGUAGE IS NOT INFERIOR TO THOSE PEOPLE WHO HAVE IMPOSED THEIR LANGUAGE EVEN ON THE PASSPORTS OF THE MANY ARAB COUNTRIES."

2. SEEING A FLICKER OF LIGHT AT THE END OF THE PASSPORT TUNNEL, EMBOFF CALLED ON AMERICAN DESK OFFICER AT MIN FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR CLARIFICATION. HE SMILED AND SAID " THIS IS THE END OF YOUR PROBLEM." EMBOFF ASKED IF MINISTRY WORKING ON AN OFFICIAL NOTE CASTING QADHAFI COMMENT IN CONCRETE. MIN OFFICIAL SAID HE DOES NOT KNOW. EMBOFF THEN SUGGESTED IT NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO RETRACT OR " CLARIFY" QADHAFI STATEMENT. DESK OFFICER REPLIED THIS HIGHLY UNLIKELY, IMPLYING THAT QADHAFI WOULD LOSE FACE IN SUCH A RETRACTION. FONMIN OFFICIAL GAVE FURTHER INDICATION THAT QADHAFI STATEMENT IS ACCURATE WHEN HE NOTED THAT IT WOULD BE OF NO HELP TO BRITISH, WHO HAVE JUST BEGUN PUTTING FRENCH IN THEIR PASSPORTS. EMBOFF REPLIED HE NOT IN A POSITION TO DISCUSS BRITISH PROBLEM.

3. WE MIGHT ALSO NOTE THAT ON 30 MAY QADHAFI ADDRESSED 96 STUDENTS GOING TO THE U. S. FOR " ELECTRONICS TRAINING," ACTUALLY VARIOUS LONG- TERM STUDIES. WHILE ADDRESS PRIMARILY ADMONISHED THEM TO RETAIN FIRM ISLAMIC FAITH DESPITE TEMPTATIONS OF SODOM AND GOMORRHA, TENOR WAS THAT LIBYA NEEDS EXPERTISE ACQUIRABLE ONLY ABROAD AND THAT THERE NO QUESTION THESE 96 STUDENTS GOING TO THE STATES, AS BEST PLACE TO GET IT.

4. WHILE ONE IS BEST ADVISED IN LIBYA TO WAIT AND SEE HOW STATEMENTS ARE PUT INTO PRACTICE, LIBYANS MAY INDEED BE BACKING DOWN FURTHER ON THE ORIGINAL STRICT INTERPRETATION OF THEIR ARABIC IN PASSPORT DECREE, AND IT IS CONCEIVEABLE THAT QADHAFI STATEMENT WAS MADE TO SOLVE IMPASSE BETWEEN U. S. AND LIBYA AS WELL AS THE FEW OTHER COUNTRIES WHOSE PASSPORTS PRINTED IN ONE LANGUAGE ONLY. INSH' ALLAH. MEANWHILE, SUGGEST WE NOT RAISE OUR HOPES OR SPECULATE WITH OUR CONTACTS.

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